

# Classic

UPDATES & MONTE NEWS



# WELCOME

I must say I was taken aback by the enthusiastic response to the Monte News Flash which announced the 2026 John O'Groats Start celebrating 100 years since the first Start from John O'Groats in 1926. This bodes well for a good entry for both the Rallye Monte Carlo Historique and the Classique Touring Event. You will find lots of Monte content in this issue of Classic Updates and Monte News.

We had a very good meeting with the folk at the Automobile Club de Monaco when we were on our holiday and were treated to a very nice lunch at the ACM club restaurant. There is an update on the plans for the 2026 Monte in this issue including a draft itinerary of the UK section.

ERDC had their AGM last week. It was well attended - in fact Alan Brisbane thought we might not have enough chairs. There is one change to the club committee – Ken Brown has taken over as Chairperson with Alan Thompson becoming vice-chair. The remaining office bearers and committee members are unchanged. The committee have lots of good ideas for the 2025/2026 season.

As usual there is an ADO update, the next instalment of Martin Hull's Austin Healey Sprite project and how to get to Monte Carlo on 3 wheels!

Douglas Anderson

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When I started looking for suitable premises for the ADO project all these years ago, I thought that what I had found would be big enough for everything I would need to build the ADO and still leave enough space to work on the car. However, as you all know, you can never have enough space because you collect bits and pieces as you go along. You've guessed. I have run out of space, but I have come up with a solution! I am creating an 'upstairs'. My friend Andy the joiner is going to sheet the roof and strengthen it with load bearing supports so that I can now store some of the stuff I have collected through the years. Hopefully, this will leave me with enough space to produce the bodies. But I don't think I should collect any more spares!



# TWIN CAM AUSTIN HEALEY SPRITE Mk11

Martin Hull

This instalment of Martin's project focuses on the bodywork. In comparison with the modifications to the suspension the bodywork modifications would seem to be straightforward. But building something unique is never straightforward!

## PART 3

The one piece fibreglass tail was for the round wheel arch cars so the scuttle was wrong for my Mk11 Sprite hood, plus the B posts are different, so I cut away the fronts of the wings, preserving the arches, and the scuttle just forward of the boot lid. After cutting out the steel square wheel arches I could clip the tail in place. The scuttle I made from steel, epoxy bonded and riveted to the fibreglass, while the forward wing sections I made from aluminium, again bonded and riveted in place. I made a tubular steel frame bonded and glassed inside the tail, around the boot lid and bolted to the floor and the coil over turrets inside the boot. I also welded in a steel bulkead from floor to scuttle.



## TO MONTE CARLO ON THREE WHEELS

I have been reading Nick Wotherspoon's excellent book on the designer Lawrie Bond who was a genius in coming up with unique ideas. He designed everything from a front wheel drive race car to Bond three-wheeled vehicles which were popular in the austerity years after the Second World War. He also designed the famous Berkeley sports cars. In order to raise the profile of the Bond three wheeled cars, the manufacturers encouraged owners to take them on long journeys. These then became great marketing tools for the Bond. In Wotherspoon's book there is an account of one of the most famous of these adventures.

".... 1952 saw a much publicised unofficial 'entry' in the Monte Carlo Rally of a Bond Minicar which completed the same gruelling 2,000 - mile rally course and then made the 1,000 - mile trip home! This run was undertaken by two Regular Army officers, Lieutenant Colonel M. Crosby and Captain T, Mills in a cream-coloured Mk C, and followed the exact route taken by the official competitors, with Glasgow as their starting point. The outgoing journey to Monte Carlo was completed in three and a half days and included arduous sections over the peaks of the Massif Central and the French Alps. Petrol consumption was recorded at 63mpg on the rally route and 75mpg on the more relaxed homeward journey, during which the 771 miles from Monte Carlo to Le Touquet Airport were covered in 34 hours (including stops), despite heavy snowfalls and freezing conditions."



## TRIP TO THE SUN

June and I had our usual holiday earlier this month in the South of France and as always we arranged to meet up with our friends at the Automobile Club de Monaco to talk about the 2026 Rallye. We stayed in our usual Budget Hotel in Menton which is just on the French/Italian border and although the hotel is basic, the view is fabulous.



We travelled all the way from Broughty Ferry railway station to Gare de Nice Ville by train and then, after one night in Nice on to Menton. Being without a car we travelled round and about by local bus, train and tram visiting Sospel, Grasse, Monaco and Tende which is now recovering after the devastation of the Great Storm a few years ago.

As you can see in the next photograph, there was not much snow on the mountains surrounding the hilltop village of Tende and with temperatures in the region of twenty degrees it didn't feel like early March.





The meeting at the Automobile Club was very helpful and convivial. They were keen to hear about our proposals for the John O'Groats Start of the 2026 Rallye and are always interested in Anniversaries. They outlined their plans for changes for the 2026 Rallye Monte Carlo Historique which we feel will enhance the Rallye for the competitors. These changes will be announced by ACM in due course.

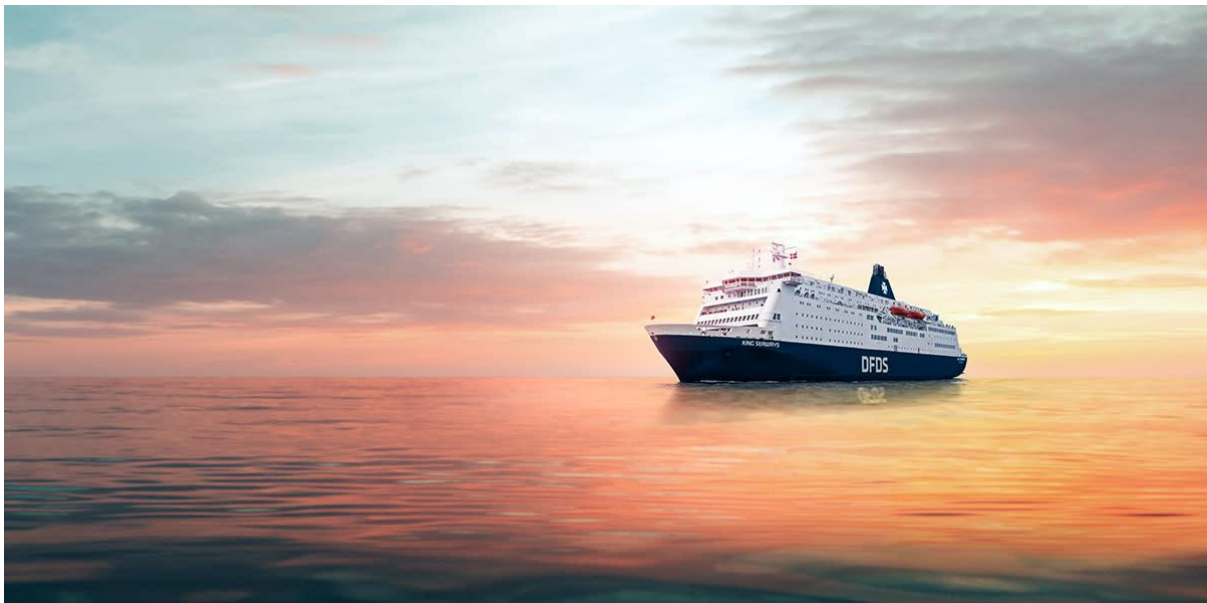




The route through Scotland into the North of England of the 2026 Rallye Monte Carlo Historique and Classique Touring Event will be completely different from previous years. The aim in putting this UK route together is to avoid motorway driving, stick to good A and B roads with as little driving in the dark as possible and to keep the mileage to within reason.

## **Draft Itinerary UK Leg 2026 Rallye**

28 January	Scrutineering, Document Checks, Pre-rallye dinner
29 January	Start Main Time Control John O’Groats
29 January	Passage Control Inverness
29 January	Passage Control Stirling
29 January	Night Halt Queensferry Crossing
30 January	Passage Control Belsay
30 January	Overnight Ferry from Newcastle to Amsterdam
31 January	ACM route to be announced





# ECOSSE RALLYE DRIVERS CLUB



The Regulations and Entry Form for the Borders Tour 26/27 April, as published in the February Monte News have been revised so that entrants can opt to do one day – either the Saturday or Sunday.

The Revised Regulations and Entry Form can be found on the [www.monte.scot](http://www.monte.scot) website on the Events tab.

## OTHER EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2025

Look out for the ERDC Stand at the following Shows.

**Stirling Classic Car Show** - 11 May 2025 [SHOW – Stirling and District Classic Car Club](#)

**Moffat Rally and Show** 28 & 29 June 2025 [Moffat Car Rally - Classic Car Shows UK](#)

**Craufurdland Castle Show** 23-24 August and **ERDC Touring event**  
Details to follow. [Buy tickets – Lombard Rally Festival Craufurdland Castle 2025 - Static Display entry for Invited Clubs for a minimum of twenty cars. – Craufurdland Castle, Kilmarnock](#)

## AUTOSOLOS

“Scottish Sporting Car Club would like to invite Ecosse Rally Drivers Club members to our AutoSolos. We run most of our events at Ardeer, near Stevenston but two are run at the Forrestburn Speed Hill Climb track. The dates are on our website under Events. You will find the current Regulations there as well. Sample route diagrams can also be found under the Events tab. [Scottish Sporting Car Club – Motorsport for Everyone](#)”

If any of your members would like to enter the next event, we would be pleased to accept their entry. All entries are done via the RallyScore website. [RallyScore](#)”

# CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Sunday 11th May 2025 Strathallan Games Park  
Bridge of Allan, Stirling FK9 4QY



**2024 Show Winner - David Millar's Volvo P1800S**

*All forms of classic vehicles and auto jumble welcome*

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# POSTER FROM THE PAST

## Des Cols **D'ECOSSE**

Ecosse Rally Drivers Club

